



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/237,466	01/26/99	HOPKINS	D FHW-037

000959  
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD  
28 STATE STREET  
BOSTON MA 02109

TM01/1208

EXAMINER

LY, A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED:

12/08/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

*[Signature]*  
1-File Copy

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/237,466

Applicant(s)  
Derek Ian Joseph Hopkins

Examiner  
Anh Ly

Group Art Unit  
2172



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

## DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,923,846 issued to Gage et al. ("Gage") in view of US Patent No. 5,251,324 issued to McMullan, Jr. ("McMullan").

With respect to claim 1, Gage discloses a method of analyzing data link messages, comprising the steps of receiving of data link messages; assigning each data link message to one of a plurality of message groups such that each group contains data link messages of a specific message type (col. 2, lines 34-50).

Gage does not explicitly indicate "tabulating the messages so as to align corresponding fields; and displaying the tabulated data; and displaying a list of field contents for each field type, the list being filtered to remove repeated incidence of the same content."

Art Unit: 2172

However, McMullan discloses the tabulated data and the filter (col. 18, lines 19-35, and col. 5, lines 3-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gage with the teachings of McMullan so as to have a tabulating the messages, and the filter to remove repeated incidence of the same content because the combination would provide an existing need for data link messages which have convenient file handling capabilities in the analyzing tactical data link messages environment.

With respect to claim 2, Gage discloses the step of performing to all of said message groups the steps of tabulating the messages and displaying the tabulated data and the field contents as claimed (col. 14, lines 13-67).

With respect to claim 3, Gage discloses the step of placing all of said data link messages of a specific message type into each of said plurality of message groups as claimed (col. 17, lines 18-54).

With respect to claim 4, Gage discloses a method of analyzing data link messages as discussed in claim 1.

Gage does not explicitly indicate "the step of sorting said list of field contents."

However, McMullan discloses the steps of sorting the list of field contents as claimed (col. 25, lines 27-59).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gage with the teachings of McMullan so as to have a sorting list of field contents because the combination would provide an existing need for

Art Unit: 2172

data link messages which have convenient file handling capabilities in the analyzing tactical data link messages environment.

With respect to claim 5, Gage discloses the step of filtering one of said plurality of message groups so as to display only messages having a particular content for that field type, the content having been selected from the list of field contents as claimed (col. 6, lines 40-67, col. 14, lines 13-67, and col. 17, lines 18-54).

With respect to claim 6, Gage discloses a method of analyzing data link messages as discussed in claim 1.

Gage does not explicitly indicate “the step of filtering the list to remove repeated incidence of content falling within a specific range.”

However, McMullan discloses the steps of filtering the repeated incidence of content as claimed (col. 18, lines 36-67, and col. 19, lines 1-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gage with the teachings of McMullan so as to have a filter to remove the repeated incidence of content because the combination would provide an existing need for data link messages which have convenient file handling capabilities in the analyzing tactical data link messages environment.

With respect to claim 7, Gage discloses a method of analyzing data link messages as discussed in claim 1.

Gage does not explicitly indicate “the data link messages comprise tactical data link messages.

Art Unit: 2172

However, McMullan discloses the data link messages as claimed (col. 5, lines 3-12, col. 24, lines 62-67, and col. 25, lines 1-6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gage with the teachings of McMullan so as to have data link messages because the combination would provide an existing need for data link messages which have convenient file handling capabilities in the analyzing tactical data link messages environment.

### **Conclusions**

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosures.

Kanerva et al. (US Patent No. 6,122,649)

Kraft et al. (US. Patent No. 6,084,585)

### **Contact Information**

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (703) 306-4527. The examiner can be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Art Unit: 2172

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, see the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry)

**or:**

(703) 305-9724 or (703) 308-6606 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

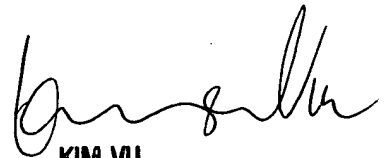
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (receptionist).

Inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

AL



Dec. 3rd, 2000



KIM VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100